

**Remarks**

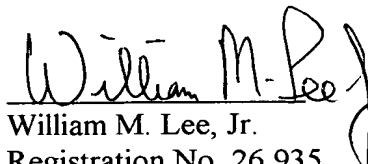
The International Preliminary Examination Report, a copy of which is appended hereto, contains the amended claims for this application, and for which amendments have been made above in order to eliminate multiple dependency and improper multiple dependency. Should any multiple dependency remain, that is unintended, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is requested to cancel any multiple dependent claims without prejudice before calculation of the application filing fee.

The International Preliminary Examination Report reaches the conclusion that the claims meet the requirements of novelty and inventive step (non-obviousness). It is submitted that the same result should occur in the United States.

Examination of the application on its merits is awaited.

December 10, 1998

Respectfully submitted,

  
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